

REMARKS

Prior to this response, claims 1-20 were pending, with claims 5-20 withdrawn. In reply to the Office Action of August 24, 2007, please enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. By this response, Applicant cancels claims 1 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends claims 2, 4, 5 and 7. Withdrawn claims 9-20 are also canceled to facilitate allowance of the remaining claims. No new matter has been added.

In the Office action, the Examiner: (i) requested a title descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed; (ii) rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese publication number 07-086418 to Fujitsu ("Fujitsu"); and (iii) rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 4,903,087 to Jerome *et al.* ("Jerome"); (iv) rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,740,958 to Nazazato *et al.* ("Nazazato"); and (v) rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazato in view of Fujitsu. Applicant respectfully disagrees, traversing the rejections and submitting that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth below. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specification

Applicant has updated the title to reflect the subject matter indicated as allowable, and respectfully submits this objection has been overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujitsu, as well as by Jerome. Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakazato. Claim 3 stands rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazato in view of Fujitsu.

Claim 1 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus Applicant submits that the rejections of these claims are now moot. Further, claim 2 has been amended to be dependent upon allowed claim 4, thus Applicant submits that claim 2 is

allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and allowance of claim 2, which depends from *prima facie* allowable claim 4.

Withdrawn Claims 5-8 Now Depend on Allowable Claim 4

Withdrawn claims 5-8, which are *dependent claims* depending directly or indirectly upon claim 4 and are thus consistent with the allowable subject matter, have been amended to depend from allowable claim 4 to facilitate their reconsideration and rejoinder by the Office. Because non-elected dependent species are also ordinarily allowable upon allowance of a generic claim encompassing them, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, rejoinder and allowance of claims 5-8.

Conclusory Remarks

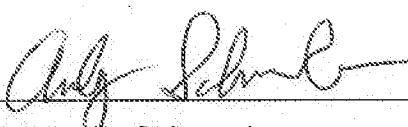
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of claims 2 and 4-8 are in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and formal allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below if doing so would in any way advance prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to grant any extensions of time, charge any fees which may be required, or credit in the overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 referencing Attorney Docket No. 351991-992050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 24, 2007 By: 

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